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- CB Radios
- Dash Cams
- Radar Detectors
- Marine VHF Radios
- Power Inverters
- Accessories

For more information or to
order any of our products,
please visit our website:
www.cobra.com

RADAR/LASER PROTECTION RAD500G

Please go to www.cobra.com
to download the Spanish
version of this manual.

Printed in the Philippines
Part No. 480-1107-P
Version A



Introduction

Important Information and Customer Assistance

Important Information

Federal Laws Governing the Use of Radar Detectors

It is not against federal law to receive radar transmissions with your Cobra radar/laser detector. The Communications Act of 1924 guarantees your right to receive radio transmissions on any frequency. Local laws that contravene this Act, while illegal, may be enforced by your local law enforcement officials until and unless they are prohibited from doing so by federal court action.

Safe Driving

Motorists, as well as operators of emergency or service vehicles, are expected to exercise all due caution while using this product, and to obey all applicable traffic laws. Do not attempt to change settings of the unit while in motion.

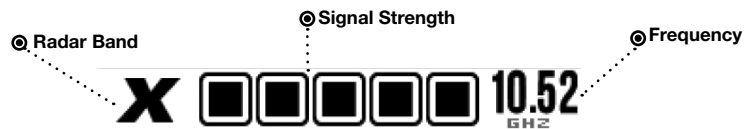
Security of Your Vehicle

Before leaving your vehicle, always remember to conceal your radar detector in order to reduce the possibility of break-in and theft.

Controls, Indicators and Connections



Easy-to-Read Display



Product Features

Congratulations! You've made a smart choice by purchasing a radar/laser detector from Cobra. Just look at some of the sophisticated features and capabilities your new unit includes:

Radar/Laser Protection

Detects all radar and laser guns.

GPS-Ready

Internal GPS receiver alerts you to known speed trap and red light/speed camera locations.

Manual Lock-Out

Allows you to lock-out locations with false alerts.

LaserEye

Detects laser signals from both front and rear.

VoiceAlert

Digital voice announcements keep your eyes on the road.

QuietDrive™

Quiet Drive is a muted driving mode for times when a driver wants less audible feedback while talking with passengers, on the phone, etc.

Premium Anti-Falsing Circuitry

Automatically reduces false alerts from erroneous sources including vehicle collision avoidance systems, traffic flow monitoring devices and other radar detectors.

Updatable IVT Filter™

User updatable system automatically reduces false alerts from moving In-Vehicle Technology sources such as collision avoidance systems and adaptive cruise control.

White OLED Display

Bright display with band identification icons and numeric signal strength meter.

Sensitivity Modes

Multiple sensitivity modes to reduce false alerts.

Auto Mute

Automatically mutes audio for sustained alerts.

Dual Language

English and Spanish voice and text alerts.

User Updates

Micro-USB port allows users to access future software updates as well as download the latest known speed trap and red-light/speed camera locations.

This booklet describes the simple steps for mounting and setting up your detector. It also provides helpful information about how radar and laser guns are used and how you can interpret the alerts you receive.



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Your Detector

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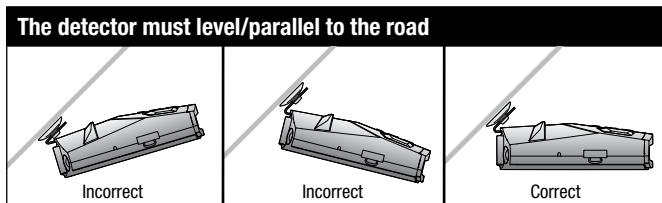
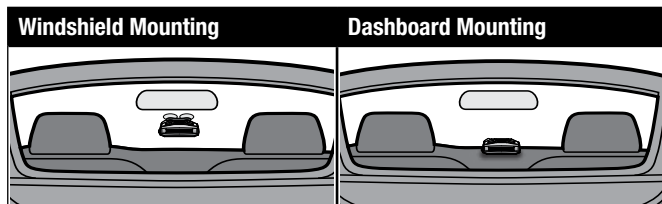
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Installation

Where to mount your unit

You will get optimum performance from your detector if you mount it at a point approximately in the center of the vehicle, as low as possible on the front windshield without obstructing the unit's view of the road either to the front or rear. You can also mount it directly on the dashboard. Make sure the detector is level/parallel to the road.



Radar and laser signals pass through glass but not through other materials and objects. Objects that can block or weaken incoming signals include:

- Windshield wiper blades
- Mirrored sun screens
- Dark tinting at the top of the windshield
- Heated windshields currently available on some vehicles (Instaclear for Ford, Electriclear for GM). Consult your dealer to see if you have this option.

Windshield mounting

1. Attach the rubber cups to the bracket.



2. Make sure the rubber cups and your windshield are clean.

3. Push the bracket firmly onto the windshield.



4. Attach the detector to the bracket. **Check that the unit is parallel to the road's surface.**



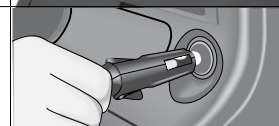
5. To adjust the angle if necessary, gently push or pull on the bracket to bend it. **DO NOT** use the detector to bend the bracket.



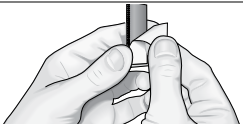
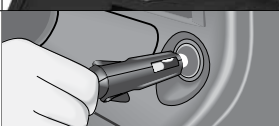
6. Plug the power cord into the detector.



7. Plug the cigarette lighter adapter on the power cord into your vehicle's cigarette lighter.



Dashboard Mounting

1. Place the detector on the dashboard to find a location where the unit has a clear, level view of the road and is parallel to the road's surface . The angle CANNOT be adjusted after mounting	
2. Remove the paper backing from one side of the hook-and-loop fastener.	
3. Attach the pad to the dashboard at your chosen location and remove the other paper backing.	 
4. Attach the detector to the hook-and-loop fastener. You can remove and reattach the unit as often as you like.	
5. Plug the power cord into the detector.	
6. Plug the cigarette lighter adapter on the power cord into your vehicle's cigarette lighter.	

Getting Started

To Turn On The Unit And Adjust The Audio Volume

Rotate the On-Off/Volume control clockwise (away from you).	Audible Tone	Visual Display
	"Testing" Three beeps "System Ready"	
When GPS signals are acquired.	Audible Tone	Visual Display (GPS locked)
	Chime	

NOTE: In some vehicles, power is supplied to the cigarette lighter even while the ignition is Off. If this is the case with your vehicle, you should turn Off or unplug your detector when parking for lengthy periods.

SEN Button

Setting your detector to **Low**  or **Medium**  sensitivity delays the audio alerts for weak X band and K band signals until they become stronger. (A single beep will sound when the signal is first detected.) Also, additional filtering is done to reduce false alerts while you are driving in, or near, urban areas where there are many sources for conflicting X and K band signals such as microwave towers and automatic door openers.

Icon	Sens Level	For
	High	No filtering for maximum range
	Medium	Minimal filtering to reduce unwanted alerts
	Low	Maximum filtering to reduce unwanted alerts
	Auto	When GPS is active, Auto Sens will automatically adjust the SENS level based on your speed.

Using the FALSE Button

Manually lock-out false alerts from X and K band door openers and other annoying places. Please be careful to lock-out only those sources that you know are permanent. An alert can be unlocked by pressing and holding the FALSE button during that alert. You can also set your User Locations by pressing and holding the FALSE button for a few seconds.

MUTE Button

Manual Mute: Your detector allows you to quickly turn OFF an audio alert by momentarily pressing the MUTE button. If you press the MUTE button a second time during the alert, the audio alert will be turned back ON. When an alert is being muted the audio icon on the display will change to



Quiet Drive is a muted driving mode for times when a driver wants less audible feedback while talking with passengers, on the phone, etc. Only the first few seconds of audio will be heard. This mode is **Off** by default.

This mode can be changed in the User Settings menu or by pressing and holding the MUTE button for two seconds. When Quiet Drive is on the audio icon on the display will change to



Battery Voltage

To display your vehicle's battery voltage, press the MUTE button momentarily while no signal is being detected.

DIM Button

You can choose from four settings for the brightness of the display. Repeatedly push the DIM button to cycle through the settings. The factory setting is Bright.

Menu - User Settings

To change the User settings, enter the Menu by pressing the **MENU** button. A voice announces "Menu" and the display will change to

USER ◀ **GPS** ▼ ▶ **ALERT**

Press the **DIM** ◀ button to enter the User settings menu.

Press the **MUTE** ▼ or **MENU** ▲ buttons to switch between the User settings.

Press the **DIM** ◀ or **SEN** ▶ buttons to change the selected User setting's value. The value that is shown on the display is the selected value. To exit the menu simply wait several seconds or select **Exit Menu**.

USER SETTING	VALUE
Detail	More*/Less
Quiet Drive	Off*/On
Auto Mute	Off/On*
Voice	Off/On*
Language	English*/Spanish
Screen Saver	Off / 1 Minute* / 3 Minute
Smart Power	Off*/On
Display Car Voltage	Off*/On
System Info	Press the SEN button to display system information.
Restore Defaults	Press the SEN button to restore factory default settings then press SEN button again to confirm (not displayed until a setting has changed).
Exit Menu	Press the MUTE button to exit the menu.

* = Factory default setting

Detail

In the **More** detail mode, information about the radar band, signal strength and frequency will be displayed.

In **Less** detail mode, only the threat level is displayed (see page 10).



Menu - User Settings *continued*

AutoMute

AutoMute will automatically reduce the audio volume of all alerts after four seconds so long as the signal is detected. The factory setting for AutoMute is **On**.

Language

The detector can be set to either English or Spanish for all text and voice audio.

Screen Saver

Your detector has a **SCREEN SAVER** mode. When **SCREEN SAVER** is turned **On** (factory default is 3 minutes), the screen will change to Dark from it's Bright, Dim, or Dimmer setting after the time interval selected. While the screen is Dark, the scanner will be displayed dimly.

NOTE: While **SCREEN SAVER** is activated, any alert will turn the display back on at the last brightness setting (Bright, Dim or Dimmer). Touching any button will also turn **On** the display.

Smart Power

Your detector includes the **SMARTPOWER** feature that, when turned **On**, will put the unit into Low Power mode 15 minutes after the car's engine has been turned **Off**.

Before **SMARTPOWER** enters Low Power mode, you will hear three beeps and **SMARTPOWER** will flash on the display. To return the unit to Normal Power mode and exit Low Power mode, start the car, press any button or turn the unit **Off** and then **On** again.

System Info

Displays information about the versions of software/firmware that are installed on your detector, and the database of Location-Based Alerts (see page 12).

Restore Defaults

To return your detector to factory default settings, press the **SEN** Button. Press the **SEN** Button again to confirm that you want to restore factory settings. Press the **MUTE** Button to exit.



Menu - Alert Settings

To change the Alert settings, enter the Menu by pressing the **MENU** button. A voice announces "Menu" and the display will change to

USER ◀ **GPS** ▼ ▶ **ALERT**

Press the **SEN** ▶ button to enter the Alert settings menu.

Press the **MUTE** ▼ or **MENU** ▲ buttons to switch between the Alert settings.

Press the **DIM** ◀ or **SEN** ▶ buttons to change the selected Alert setting's value. The value that is shown on the display is the selected value. To exit the menu simply wait several seconds or select **Exit Menu**.

RADAR SETTING	VALUE
X Band	Off/On*
K Band	Off/On*
Ka Band	Off/On*
VG-2	Off*/On
Spectre	Off*/On
Laser	On*
Low V. Warning	Off*/On
Exit Menu	Press the MUTE ▼ button to exit the menu.

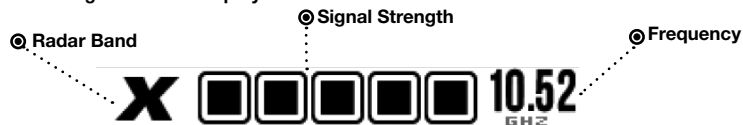
* = Factory default setting

Low Car Voltage

Displays your car battery voltage and automatically warns you if this drops below 10.9V. Your detector will then shut off to prevent further draining of your car battery.

Radar Alerts

In **More** detail mode the radar band, signal strength and frequency of the detected radar signal will be displayed.



If you are a new user of radar detectors, you may want to use the Less detail mode. In this mode the display will only show one, two, or three bars which indicate how likely the alert is to be a police radar or laser gun. This threat level indication takes into account the laser or radar band, strength, and frequency of the detected signal.

Level	Display	Threat
1	☐ LOW ☐ ☐	Low
2	☐ ☒ MED ☐	Medium
3	☐ ☒ ☒ HIGH	High

Understanding Radar and Laser

Radar Speed Monitoring Systems

Three band frequencies have been approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for use by speed monitoring radar equipment:

X band	10.525 GHz
K band	24.150 GHz
Ka band	33.400 – 36.00 GHz

Your detector detects signals in all three radar bands.

VG-2

VG-2 is a “detector detector” that works by detecting low-level signals emitted by most radar detectors. Your detector does not emit signals that can be detected by VG-2, but does detect VG-2 signals and will alert you when a device is in use near your vehicle.

Spectre RDD's

Your detector can be spotted by Spectre IV+ RDDs, but is invisible to VG-2 and Spectre I RDDs. You can choose whether you want to be alerted to VG-2 and Spectre I & IV+ RDD signals. The factory setting for VG-2 and Spectre I & IV+ alerts is Off. It is recommended to leave these Off unless you are concerned about being monitored for having a radar detector. For non-commercial vehicles, radar detectors are legal in the U.S. with the exception of Virginia and Washington D.C.

Laser Alerts

With Laser signals you will always receive a full strength alert. In More Detail mode the word **Laser** will be shown on the display along with the pulse rate of the Laser signal. In Less Detail mode three signal strength bars will be shown.

LIDAR (Laser)

The correct name for the technology that most people refer to as laser is actually **LIDAR**, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging.

LIDAR operates much like radar. Its signal spreads out like a radar signal, though not as widely. Unlike radar, LIDAR must have a clear line of sight to its target vehicle throughout the entire measurement interval. Obstructions such as sign posts, utility poles, tree branches, etc., will prevent valid speed measurement.

Some common questions about LIDAR include:

- **Does weather have any affect on LIDAR?**
Yes. Rain, snow, smoke, fog or airborne dust particles will reduce the effective range of LIDAR and can, if dense enough, prevent its operation.
- **Can LIDAR operate through glass?**
Yes. Newer LIDAR guns can obtain readings through most types of glass. However, the laser pulse also can be received through glass to trigger an alarm by your detector.
- **Can LIDAR operate while in motion?**
No. Because LIDAR operates by line of sight, the person using it cannot drive the vehicle, aim and operate the gun all at the same time.
- **Is it legal for police to use LIDAR?**
Yes, LIDAR is allowed to be used in all 50 States by police. Your detector detects LIDAR (laser).



Menu - GPS Settings

To change GPS settings, enter the menu by pressing the **MENU** button. A voice announces "Menu" and the display with change to

USER ◀ GPS ▼ ▶ ALERT

Press the **MUTE ▼** button to enter the GPS menu.

Press the **MUTE ▼** or **MENU ▲** buttons to switch between the GPS settings.

Press the **DIM ◀** or **SEN ▶** buttons to change the selected GPS setting's value. The value that is shown on the display is the selected value. To exit the menu simply wait several seconds or select **Exit Menu**.

GPS SETTING	VALUE
Speed Units	MPH*/KPH
Speed Mute	Off*/10/15/20...65
Speed Alert	Off*/40/45/50...95
Speed Camera	On*/Off
Red Light Camera	On*/Off
Caution Area	On*/Off
Speed Trap	On*/Off
Lock Out	On*/Off
User Location	On*/Off
Delete User Location	Delete All User Locations
Lock Out Delete	Delete All Locked Out Locations

Location-Based Alerts (LBAs)

Your detector is equipped with an internal GPS receiver to alert you to known speed trap as well as red-light/speed camera locations. Refer to below LBA icons for details.

LBA Types	AURA	LBA Types	AURA
Photo Enforcement Area		Speed Trap	Live Police
Speed Camera		Caution Area	
Red Light Camera		User Location	



Specifications

Band and Frequencies

Band	Frequencies		
X Band	10.525	± 0.050	GHz
K Band	24.125	± 0.125	GHz
Ka Band	34.700	± 1.300	GHz
Laser	910 ± 50 nm	100	PPS
VG-2	11.500	± 0.250	GHz



WARNING Modifications or parts substitutions not approved by Cobra Electronics Corporation may violate FCC Rules and void your authority to operate this equipment.

U.S. Patent Number: 6,078,279

LBAs and Software Updates

The known speed trap and red-light/speed camera locations (LBAs) data as well as your detection software can be updated via the micro-USB port on your detector. To update, connect your detector to a Windows®-based PC and go to <http://www.cobra.com/softwareupdates> and select RAD500G to download the latest data and/or software.

Maintenance

Your detector is designed and built to give you years of trouble-free performance without the need for service. No routine **Maintenance** is required.

If your unit does not appear to be operating properly, please follow these troubleshooting steps:

- Make sure the power cord is properly connected.
- Make sure the socket of your vehicle's cigarette lighter is clean and free of corrosion.
- Make sure the power cord's cigarette lighter adapter is firmly seated in your cigarette lighter.



Limited 1-Year Warranty

Cobra Electronics Corporation warrants that this product and the component parts thereof, will be free of defects in workmanship and materials for a period of one year from the date of first consumer purchase. This warranty may be enforced by the first consumer purchaser. If the product is under warranty, it will be repaired or exchanged depending on the model as determined at Cobra's sole discretion. Such remedy shall be your sole and exclusive remedy for any breach of warranty.

The procedure for obtaining service and support, and the applicability of this warranty, will vary depending on the country or jurisdiction in which you purchased and utilize the product. For the details on obtaining product service, support and warranty please visit www.cobra.com/support

Provided that the product is utilized within the U.S.A.- Cobra will, without charge, repair or replace, at its option, defective products, products or component parts upon delivery to the Cobra Factory Service department, accompanied by proof of the date of first consumer purchase, such as a duplicated copy of a sales receipt. You must pay any initial shipping charges required to ship the product for warranty service, but the return charges, to an address in the U.S.A., will be at Cobra's expense, if the product is repaired or replaced under warranty.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which may vary from state to state and country to country.

Exclusions: This limited warranty does not apply: 1) To any product damaged by accident; 2) In the event of misuse, ordinary wear, failure to follow directions, or improper maintenance of the product or as a result of unauthorized alterations or repairs; 3) If the serial number has been altered, defaced, or removed; 4) If the product was purchased or is utilized in a jurisdiction not covered by the limited warranty.

All implied warranties, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose are limited in duration to the length of this warranty. Cobra shall not be liable for any incidental, consequential or other damages; including, without limitation, damages resulting from loss of use or cost of installation.

Some states and countries do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and/or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state and country to country.



Product Service and Support

For any questions about operating or installing this new Cobra product, PLEASE CONTACT COBRA FIRST...do not return this product to the retail store. The contact information for Cobra will vary depending on the country in which you purchased and utilize the product. For the latest contact information, please go to www.cobra.com/support

For products purchased in the U.S.A. you may also call 1-773-889-3087.

For Products Purchased in the U.S.A., if your product should require factory service, please go to www.cobra.com/support and follow the instructions for returning your product to the Cobra Factory Service Department for service.

Optional Accessories

You can find quality Cobra products and accessories at your local Cobra dealer, or in the U.S.A., you can order directly from Cobra at www.cobra.com



**Windshield
Mounting Bracket**

Includes suction cups
Item #545-159-N-001



**Straight 12V DC
Power Cord**

Includes plug and fuse
Item #420-030-N-001



**Coiled 12V DC
Power Cord**

Includes plug and fuse
Item # 420-026-N-001



**Straight Combination Radar
USB Cord**

Includes plug and USB
Output
Item # PWR USB-01



Dual Port Power Adapter

Includes adjustable plug
(up to 90°) and fuse
Item # CLP-2B



Hardwire Cord for Radar

Includes fuse
Item # RA-PSCB



Install Mount

Includes 3M Dual Lock™
Item # 545-002

FCC Statement

FCC NOTICE: This device complies with part 15 of FCC rules: Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) This device must accept any interference received including interference that may cause undesired operation.

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

AVIS FCC: Cet appareil est conforme à la partie 15 des règles de la FCC: Son fonctionnement est soumis aux deux conditions suivantes: (1) Ce dispositif ne peut causer des interférences nuisibles, et (2) Cet appareil doit accepter toute interférence reçue, y compris les interférences qui peuvent causer un mauvais fonctionnement.

NOTE: Cet équipement a été testé et jugé conforme aux limites d'un appareil numérique de classe B, conformément à la partie 15 des règles de la FCC. Ces limites sont conçues pour fournir une protection raisonnable contre les interférences nuisibles dans une installation résidentielle. Cet équipement génère, utilise et peut émettre de l'énergie radiofréquence et, si non installé et utilisé conformément aux instructions, il peut causer des interférences nuisibles aux communications radio. Cependant, il n'y a aucune garantie que l'interférence ne se produira pas dans une installation particulière. Si cet appareil provoque des interférences nuisibles à la réception radio ou de télévision, ce qui peut être déterminé en mettant l'appareil hors tension, l'utilisateur est invité à essayer de corriger l'interférence par une ou plusieurs des mesures suivantes:

- Réorienter ou déplacer l'antenne de réception.
- Augmenter la distance entre l'équipement et le récepteur.
- Branchez l'appareil dans une prise sur un circuit différent de celui auquel le récepteur est connecté.
- Consulter le revendeur ou un technicien radio / TV expérimenté.

Trademark Acknowledgement

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